

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants have concurrently filed herewith a Letter to the Official Draftsperson submitting formal drawings to replace the originally filed informal drawings, including corrected drawing informalities indicated on Form PTO-948 attached to the Office Action and changes to Figures 2 and 4.

In FIG. 2, please replace reference numeral "22" with - - 220 - -.

In FIG. 4, please add - - CRC DETECTOR - - to reference numeral 412A.

In FIG. 4, please add - - SER DETECTOR - - to reference numeral 412B.

In FIG. 4, please add - - YAMAMOTO METRIC DETECTOR - - to reference numeral 412C.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Applicants provide herewith amendments to the specification. A marked up version of these amendments is also provided on a separate page from this Amendment as Appendix A.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 8 on page 7 and ending at line 18 on page 7 with the following paragraph:

FIG. 3 shows a frame structure **300** with groups of bits of different importance protected by quality metrics in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The frame structure **300** contains three classes of information bits: class A **306**, class B **304**, and class C **302**. The different classes are of different importance. For the purposes of this discussion, it is assume that class A **306** information bits are more important than class B **304** and class C **302** bits. All the information bits are protected by an outer CRC **310**. The more important information bits of class A **306** are further protected by

a1
an inner CRC **308**. The frame also contains tail bits **312**. The tail bits **312** do not carry any information, and are all zeros. The tail bits **312** are used to initialize an encoder (not shown) for the next frame.

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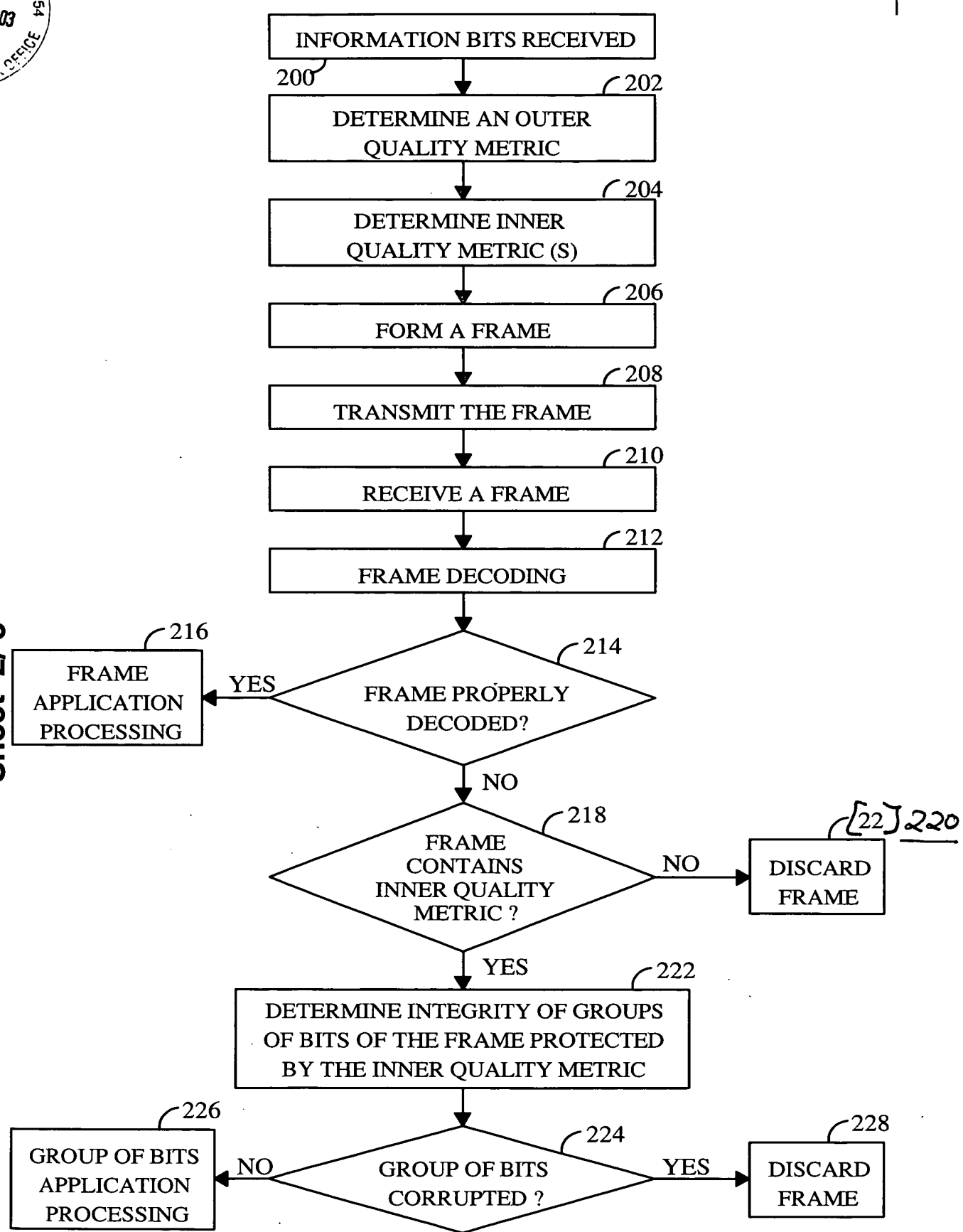


FIG. 2



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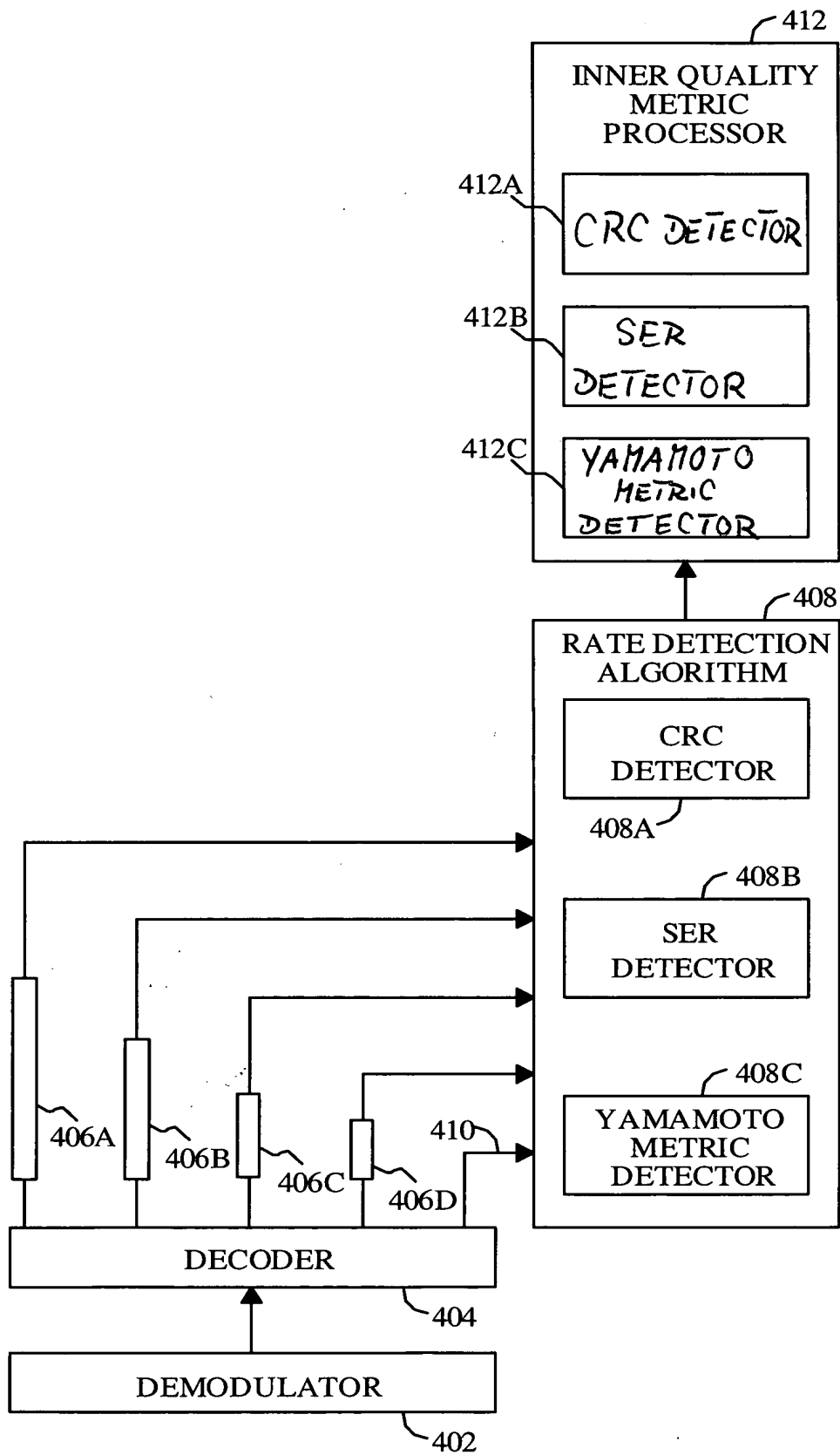


FIG. 4



100 ↗

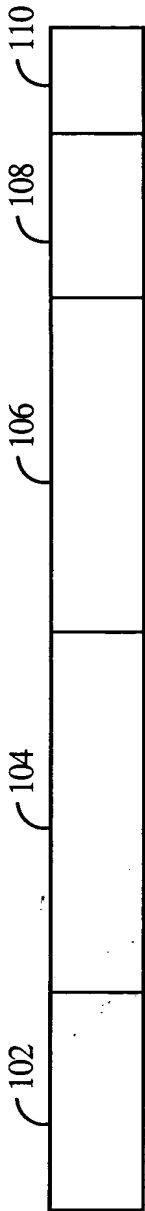


FIG. 1

300 ↗

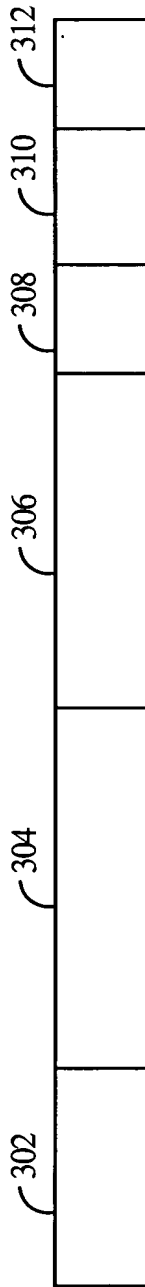


FIG. 3



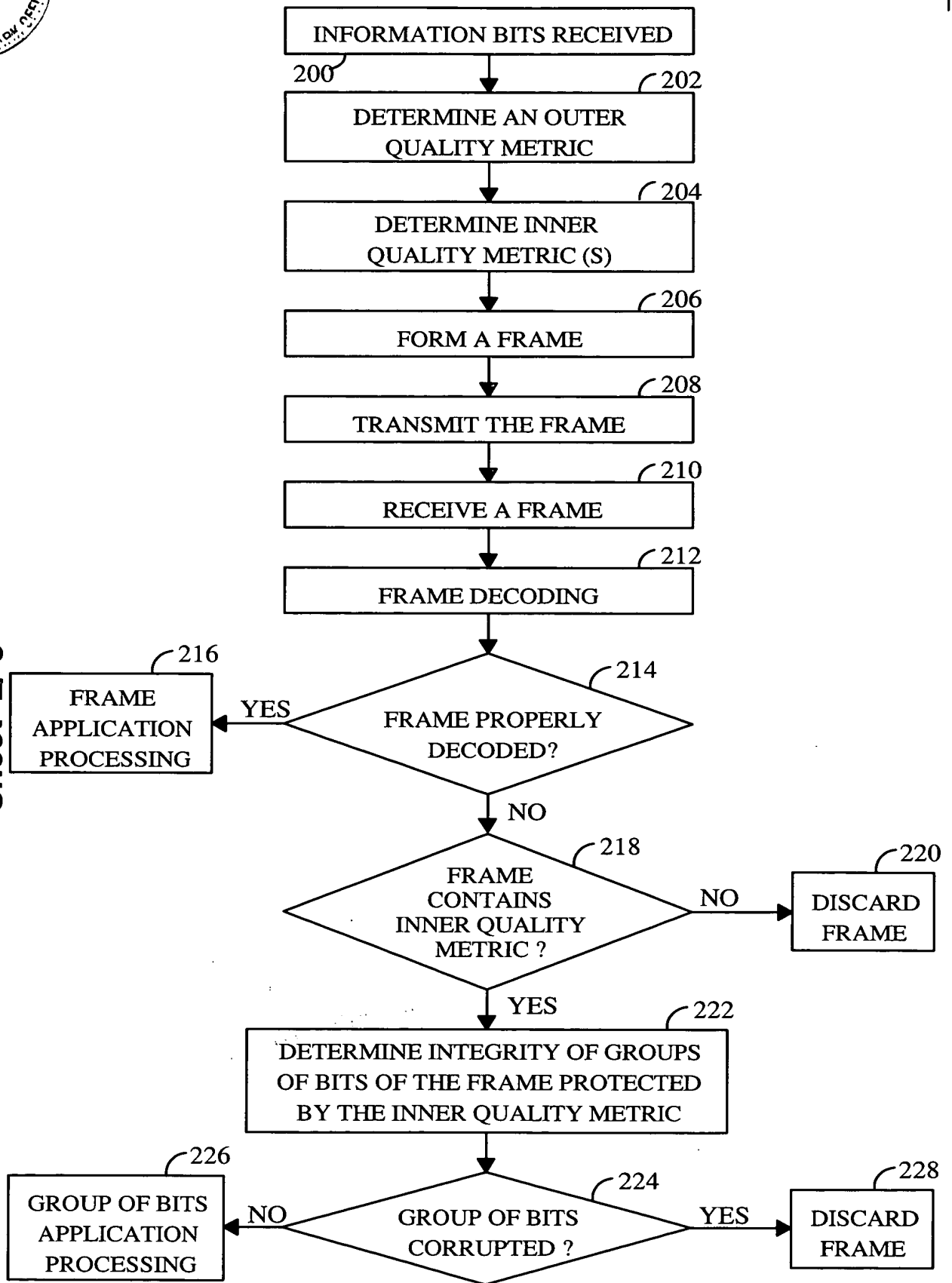


FIG. 2

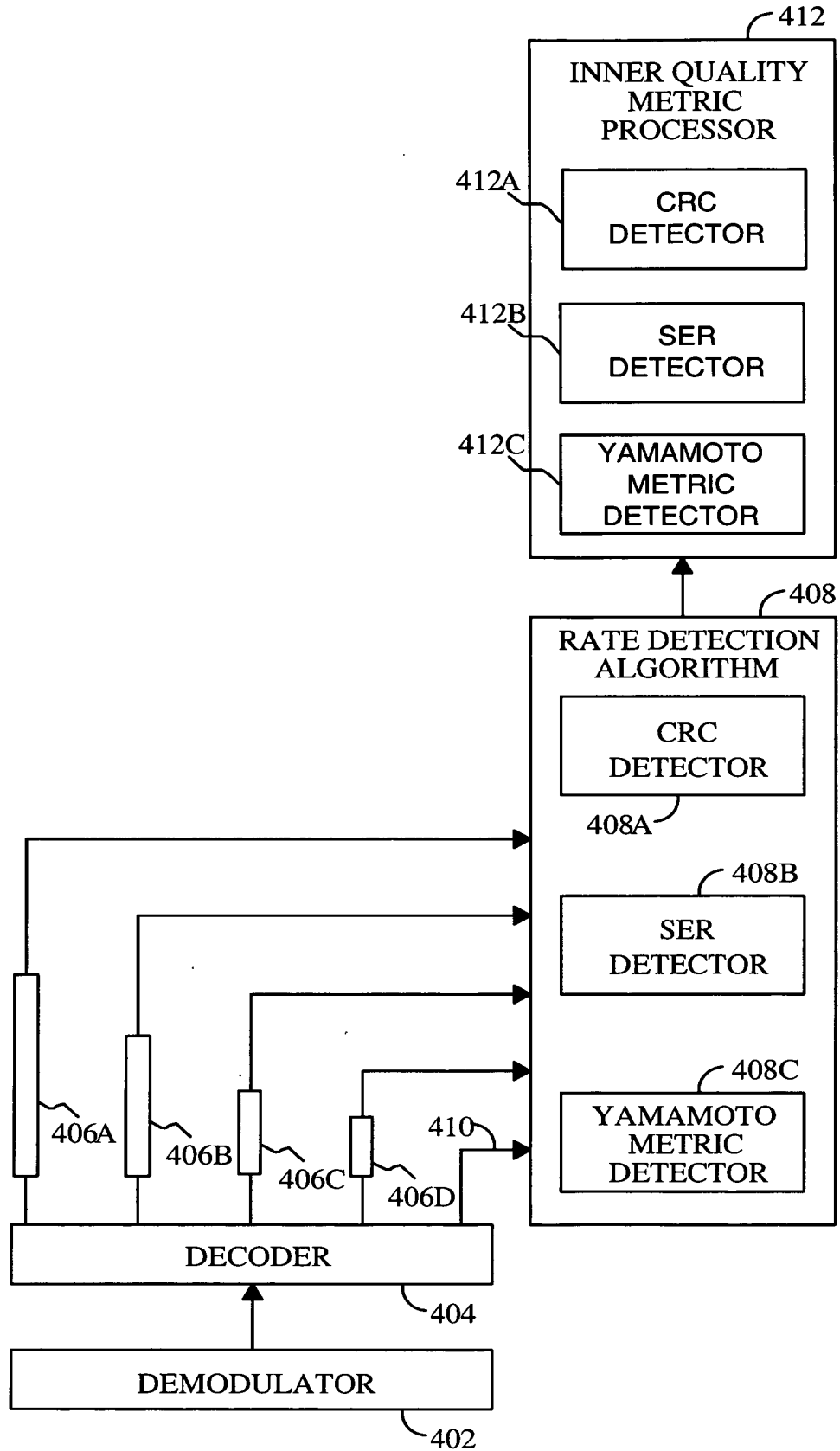


FIG. 4